

Culver City Middle School Summer Reading Assignment

Dear Culver City Middle School students,

We are eager to meet you next year in your English Language Arts classes at Culver City Middle School. Before you join us in the fall, you will need to complete the summer reading requirement by reading a **nonfiction** book, answering five self generated questions, and presenting some of these to your class or teacher in September. This assignment is due on Monday, September 14th. Nonfiction means a book that is true.

Requirements:

Read a nonfiction book of 100 pages or more appropriate to your reading level. As you read, create and answer five questions that capture the main idea and other interesting aspects of your book. When you return to school, you will turn in these questions/answers and present some of these to your teacher and/or class. Each answer should be in a paragraph of 4-8 sentences in length with a clear topic sentence that answers your question, essential details or quotations that support the topic sentence, and a conclusion sentence. Make sure you include the title and author of your book at the top of your paper. You should mention specific parts of the book by either paraphrasing (putting it into your own words) or by using direct quotations (words taken directly from the book framed by quotation marks) to support your answers. If you use a direct quote please also write the author's last name and page number. We have included an example on the last page. All papers should be typed, double spaced (skipping lines), 12 font or neatly written in blue/black ink.

Honor Requirements:

Honor students must research an article on the topic of the book and answer the following question in a well-developed paragraph. Remember to cite your article. Include the following: title, author if known, website if applicable and date published.

Compare and contrast the information in the article to the information in your book. What is similar? What is different? Analyze the differences.

Attach the article or include the link to your summer reading assignment.

Below are some suggested questions.

Avoid yes or no questions. Ask open ended questions such as:

Nonfiction book

What is the central idea of the book?
What is the most interesting part of the book?
What did I learn from reading this book?
What is the theme of the book?
Who would you recommend this book to and why?
What does the author believe about this subject?
How does this book connect to a modern day event?
What was the cause/effect of this event?
To what major issue in today's world is this book related to?
How would you summarize this book in less than 8 sentences?
How would you describe the structure of the book?
What are the five most important facts I learned from reading this book?

Links to questions stems:

<http://marcy.mpls.k12.mn.us/uploads/questionstems.pdf>

Biography/Autobiography Questions

Describe his/her childhood.
Why is she/he famous?
Why was a book written about this individual?
What is/was the most memorable moment of his/her life?
What was his/her greatest accomplishment?
What are the five most important facts I learned from this book?

Links to suggested nonfiction books:

Young Adult Library Services Association recommendations:

<http://www.ala.org/yalsa/nonfiction/>

The College of Education at the University of Texas suggested nonfiction reading list with reading levels.

<http://www.edb.utexas.edu/resources/booksR4teens/nonfiction.html>

Popular nonfiction books for middle school students:

<http://www.goodreads.com/shelf/show/middle-school-nonfiction>

School Library Journal recommended books:

Make sure you choose a middle school book, not elementary.

<http://www.slj.com/2013/05/standards/common-core/20-outstanding-nonfiction-books-core-essentials/#>

Narrative Nonfiction recommendations

<http://childrensbooks.about.com/od/toppicks/tp/Top-Notch-Narrative-Nonfiction-For-Middle-Graders.htm>

Here you will find a long list of book suggestions for interesting **Non-Fiction Books** for **Middle School** Students at Scotch Plains Public Library

<http://www.scotlib.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/06/Non-Fiction-Books-for-Middle-School-at-SPPL-2012.pdf>

	1	2	3	4
Questions	- Questions are poorly constructed - They are not taken from the list provided or are questions unrelated to content. - They are low interest - They do not relate to the material in the book	- Questions are constructed - They are taken from the list provided or are questions related to content that demonstrate a deep understanding of the content - They are of little interest - They sometimes relate to the material in the book	- Questions are well constructed - They are taken from the list provided or are questions related to content that demonstrate an average understanding of the content - They are of some interest - They relate to the material in the book	- Questions are well constructed - They are taken from the list provided or are questions related to content that demonstrate a deep understanding of the content - They are high interest - They always relate to the essential material in the book
Mechanics	Full of spelling and grammar mistakes	Quite a few mistakes making it hard to read	A few mistakes	No noticeable spelling and grammatical mistakes
Word Choice and Sentence Structure	- Many words are used inappropriately - Problems with sentence structure	- Word choice is okay - Range of words is limited - Some words are used inappropriately - Some sentences are awkwardly constructed	- Word choice is generally good. - Some variety in length and structure	- Word choice is consistently precise and accurate - Sentences are well-phrased and varied in length and structure
SECTION BELOW IS WORTH DOUBLE				
Writing content and organization	- Serious issues with organization - Incomplete answers	- Unclear, vague topic sentences that do not answer the question directly - Topic sentences are not supported with examples/ evidence from the book, either quoted or just mentioning a part (paraphrase) - Examples/ evidence are rarely clear or explained to enhance meaning. - Paragraphs are too short in length	- Mostly clear, specific topic sentences that answer the question directly - Most topic sentences are supported with examples/ evidence from the book, either quoted or just mentioning a part (paraphrase) - Examples/ evidence are somewhat explained to enhance meaning. - Paragraphs are 4-8 sentences in length	- Clear, specific topic sentences answer the question directly - All topic sentences are supported with examples/ evidence from the book, either quoted or just mentioning a part (paraphrase) - Examples/ evidence are clearly explained to enhance meaning. - Paragraphs are 4-8 sentences in length

____ Neatness: 2 points: Double spaced (skip lines if you are writing by hand). First and last name should be in the upper right hand corner. Title of the book, author, and number of pages should be centered at the top.

Sample Paper

Anne Garcia

Language Arts 8

10 September 2015

Jane Goodall: Legendary Primatologist

by Brenda Haugen,

1. What inspired Jane Goodall to study the chimpanzees?

What inspired Goodall to study the chimpanzees was her love for animals. When she was a child, she ran away from home to watch a chicken lay an egg. When Goodall was “twelve, Jane decided to start her own nature group, named the alligator club” (Haugen 21). Jane, her sister, Judy, and her friends were all members of this club. They would collect plants, frame them, put them on display, and charge the neighborhood kids for admission to their little museum. With the money, they would purchase an animal that was about to be slaughtered, then they would let the animal go free. Even when Jane was a child, she already dedicated her time and energy to the well-being of animals. Eventually these animals would inspire Goodall to move to Africa and study the chimpanzees.

2. Why is Jane Goodall famous?

Jane Goodall is famous because she “spent more than forty-five years of her life studying chimpanzees...” (Haugen 49). She spent most of her life in Africa, away from home, to study what she loved. Forty-five years is an exponential amount of time to be in the wild in unfamiliar surroundings. Slowly and surely, Jane began to think that the jungle was more her home than the modern world could ever be. Even though Goodall didn’t come from much, her career was helping animals ever since she was a little girl. Jane Goodall is also known because she married and started a family while in Africa. She had a husband named Hugo van Lawick and a son nicknamed Grub. She later divorced Lawick and married again to Derek Bryceson. Goodall is known for a lot of things but all of them lead back to one thing, her career in primatology.

3. What is Jane Goodall’s greatest accomplishment?

One of Jane “Goodall’s proudest accomplishment is the creation of Roots and Shoots” (Haugen 93). Roots and Shoots is an environmental program that teaches kids to take action in solving the problems that lie within their own community. Roots and Shoots is the place to gather together and create a project to solve the problem. If one of

their many projects interests a sponsor, then he can give the foundation a grant to fund that project. This program was founded in the Jane Goodall Institute for wildlife rescue, which Jane created with the help of an Italian noble man. This is one of Goodall's greatest accomplishments because now, even children, can help out on a global scale. Roots and Shoots symbolizes how Goodall not only wants to help herself, she wants to teach kids how to help others.

4. What was one of the worst things that happened to Jane Goodall while in Gombe?

The most life threatening thing while in Gombe was the "kidnapping of people from the Gombe camp" (Haugen 76). A terrorist named Laurent Kaliba took white students studying at the camp demanded the freedom of captivated terrorists, and a ransom of 500,000 dollars. Goodall wrote a letter to the terrorists to try and calm them down but it didn't work. One of the parents finally gave in to the pressure of having one of their children murdered and paid the ransom. They let all the women go free but kept a single man, Steven Smith, because their fellow terrorists haven't been released yet. Since Gombe couldn't let the criminals go free, eventually they gave up Smith for an unknown reason. This frightening event taught Jane that not everything is going to go as smoothly as you expect in paradise.

5. Who supported Jane Goodall the most throughout her life?

One of the most important people in her life was "Louis Leakey, a well known anthropologist and paleontologist" (Haugen 30). Leakey offered Goodall a secretary job where she learned about wildlife and went on digs with him and his wife. Leakey was one of the only people who believed in her. He funded her and her mother's trip to Africa where Jane worked with the monkeys and her mother worked in the neighborhood clinic. After a couple years in Africa, Leakey didn't think Goodall would be taken seriously without a college degree so he got her into Cambridge University and helped her earn her PhD. Without Leakey, Goodall could have never gotten to where she is today.

Honor Students will attach an article or a link to an article about the subject. They will write a comparison/contrast paragraph about the similarities and differences between the article and the book.

Link to article on Jane Goodall <http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/2010/10/jane-goodall/quammen-text>

Works Cited

Haugen, Brenda. Jane Goodall: Legendary Primatologist. San Francisco: Compass Point Press, 2006

Guammen, David. "Being Jane Goodall." National Geographic Oct. 2010 Print.